

P21907.A01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : K. EMURA

Group Art Unit:

Appl. No. : 10/019319 (U.S. National Phase of
PCT/JP00/04736)

Filed : January 10, 2002

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Technology Center 2600

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and 1.97-1.98, Applicant hereby calls the following information to the Examiner's attention:

Applicant submits herewith a copy of an International Search Report from the Japanese Patent Office dated October 17, 2000, with respect to counterpart Patent Application PCT/JP 00/04,736, in which the Japanese Patent Examiner cited the following documents:

(1) JP 10-145755 to MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL COMPANY, LTD, published May 29, 1998, was cited as an "A" category document (i.e. document relevant to the technological background) with respect to claims 1-31 of the corresponding Japanese application; the Examiner indicated page 2, right column, line 29 to page 4, left column, line 14 as being relevant.

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(2) JP 2000-261742 to KABUSHIKI KAISHA JISEDAI JOHO HOSO SYSTEM KENKYUSHO: KK SONY CORP., published September 22, 2000, was cited as an "E" category document (i.e. earlier document but published on or after the International Filing date) with respect to claims 1-31 of the corresponding Japanese application; the Examiner indicated the full text as being relevant. This document was also cited as an "A" category document with respect to claims 1-31 of the corresponding Japanese application; the Examiner indicated the full text as being relevant.

(3) JP 2000-261754 to KABUSHIKI KAISHA JISEDAI JOHO HOSO SYSTEM KENKYUSHO: KK RICOH CO LTD., published September 22, 2000, was cited as an "E" category document with respect to claims 1-31 of the corresponding Japanese application, as well as an "A" category document with respect to claims 1-31 of the corresponding Japanese application; the Examiner indicated the full text as being relevant.

(4) JP 2000-224257 to KABUSHIKI KAISHA JISEDAI JOHO HOSO SYSTEM KENKYUSHO: KK SONY CORP, published August 11, 2000, was cited as an "E" category document with respect to claims 1-31 of the corresponding Japanese application, as well as an "A" category document with respect to claims 1-31 of the corresponding Japanese application; the Examiner indicated the full text as being relevant.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider and cite the above-noted documents. Copies of each of the above-noted documents, as well as a corresponding English language abstract for each document, are attached hereto. Further, all of the above-noted

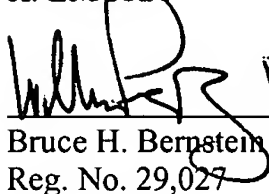
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documents have been listed on a PTO-1440 Form which is also attached hereto. A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report is also enclosed. A copy of the International Search Report was attached to the application as filed. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form to confirm consideration of these documents and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicant with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

K. EMURA

 R N. 33630

Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

April 1, 2002
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

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